

*A3*  
*Cont*  
an aqueous solution including at least about 5.0% (w/v) ascorbic acid, wherein the composition has a pH of more than 3.5.

*A4*  
19. (Amended) The composition of claim 18, wherein about 10% to about 50% of the ascorbic acid is pretreated ascorbic acid.

*A5*  
24. (Amended) The composition of claim 18, comprising about 15% to about 25% (w/v) ascorbic acid.

26. (Amended) A topical composition comprising:

*A5*  
an aqueous solution including at least about 5.0% (w/v) ascorbic acid, wherein about 10% to about 50% of the ascorbic acid is pretreated ascorbic acid;  
a non-toxic zinc salt; and  
a tyrosine compound, wherein the composition has a pH of more than 3.5.